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USDA SURVEY TO FOCUS ON IRRIGATION

Austin, TX – Water is a source of life and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is giving Texas farmers and ranchers a chance to report on their stewardship of this precious resource. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will conduct the Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey to gauge on-farm water use and irrigation practices.

"This survey provides the only comprehensive information on irrigation activities and water use in agriculture. Texas producers understand the benefit from this survey," said Doug Rundle, director of the NASS Southern Plains Regional Office. "By providing comprehensive information on irrigation activities and water use on their farms, producers will help in the development of improved technology, better equipment and more efficient water use practices."

The survey will also include an additional focus on nursery and horticultural operations. NASS will collect information about irrigation water use during 2013, including application methods, equipment, facilities, expenditures, crop acreage and yield.

On Jan. 6, 2014, NASS mailed the irrigation survey to approximately 1,400 producers in Texas, with the responses due back by Feb. 10, 2014. As is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is protected by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified.

Only those producers, who indicated irrigation in the 2012 Census of Agriculture, will receive the survey. As part of the Census program, the irrigation survey participation is mandatory with accordance to U.S. law.

For more information about the Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey, call (888) 424-7828 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

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